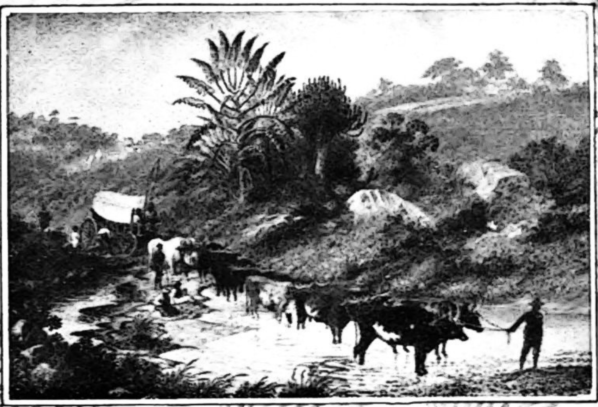


SOUTH AFRICA

I pray you, in your letters,
When you shall these unlucky deeds relate,
Speak of me as I am ; nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice : then must you speak
Of one, that loved not wisely, but too well.
—*Othello.*

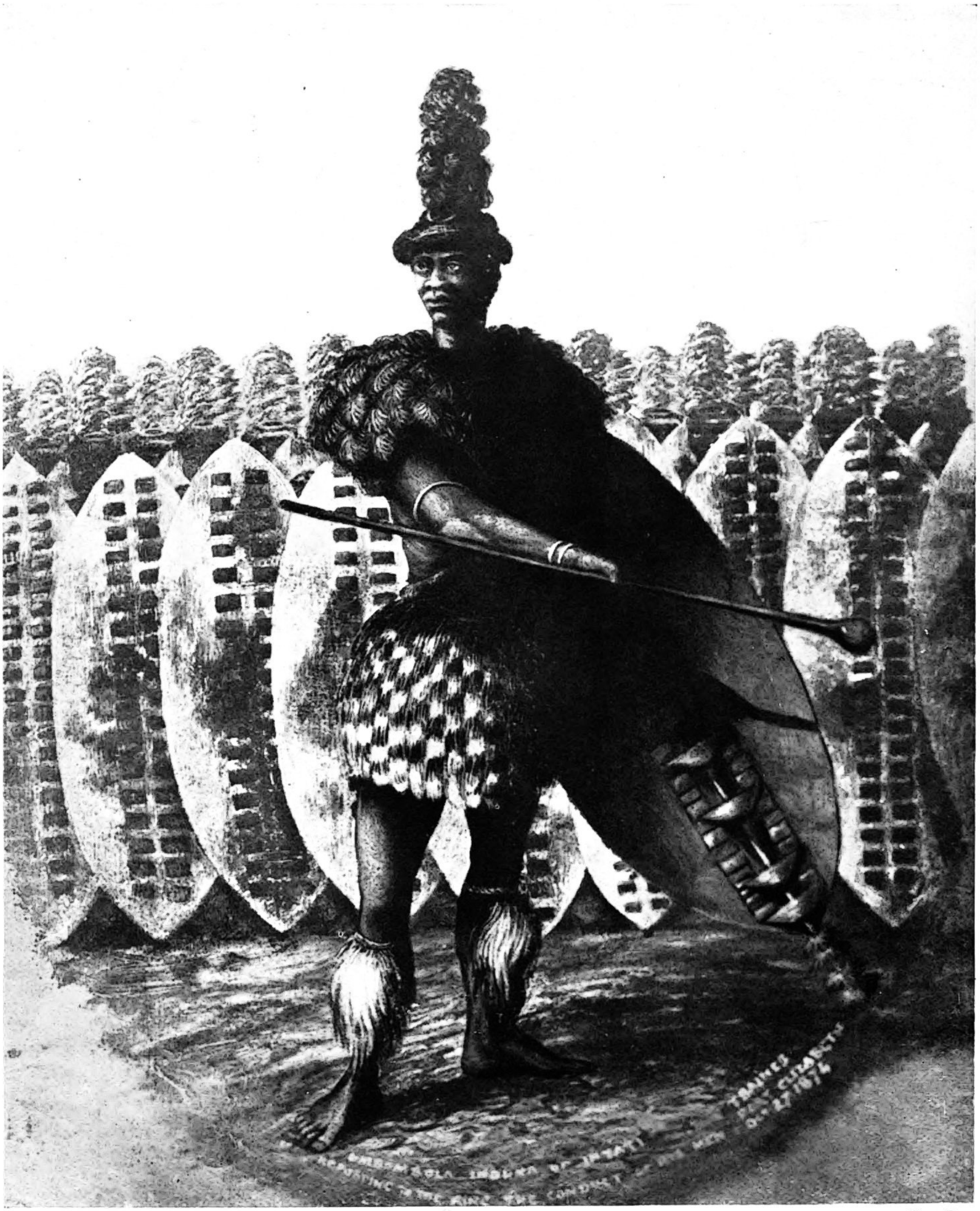
THE day is drawing to a close, and the heavens are a glorious blaze of red. The bullocks have been out-spanned, and the waggon stands idly by. The crack of the long whip and the groaning noise of the bullock-waggon is no longer to be heard. The three Kaffirs have fallen asleep — sound asleep in spite of the flies crawling over their faces. The traveller, artist and maker-of-books lies near a few charred embers, which have been burned to boil the water for the coffee-drink. The honey-bird calls, but there is no one to follow. The veldt lies out in a broad expanse, but the traveller no longer heeds its invitation to search out its mysteries, and the lions roar in the forest. On a neighbouring tree the vultures cluster together, looking with patient eyes on the artist and his servants. Two or three yellow manuscripts crowded with notes, a roughly-drawn map and three scientific works lie in a confused pile against the wheel of the waggon. The boots of the artist and traveller are torn and tattered like the soul of their owner. They have been far, seen much, have had hard knocks, and now tired out and waiting for rest.

Thomas Baines

The lover of strange men and strange places looks once round him, at the glorious sunset' at the trees, and with the use of custom heeds not the lions' roar as he draws the skin of a wild beast about his loins. At last he is to set out on the great exploration—the exploration of his life. His desires are about to be fulfilled. He spreads the map over his lap, and marks the route with his finger, frequently gazing up to the sky. As darkness approaches he becomes tired, and just as the sun disappears behind yonder range of hills he falls asleep.

The Kaffirs are about in the early hours of the morning. The bullocks are inspanned, the birds are singing, and a fire is boiling the water for the morning coffee. The bullocks begin to switch their tails, aggravated by the flies, but the artist and traveller does not move. He sleeps on peacefully with his lion's hide wrapt round his body, his map clutched tightly in his right hand, and his manuscripts and books lying near. "The Boss" does not wake, and the vultures come nearer. The oxen get restless, anxious to be on their way, and the kaffirs are ready, everything is in the waggon but——but the artist and traveller is dead.

The above is a conception of the end of unhappy Thomas Baines, artist, traveller, and writer of books. He left behind him a warm corner in the hearts of those who understood him. He passed from this world to join the


UMBOMBOLA INDUNA OF INJATI
REPORTING TO THE KING THE CONDUCT OF HIS MEN
T. BAINES
ELIZABETH
Oct 27 1874

Board

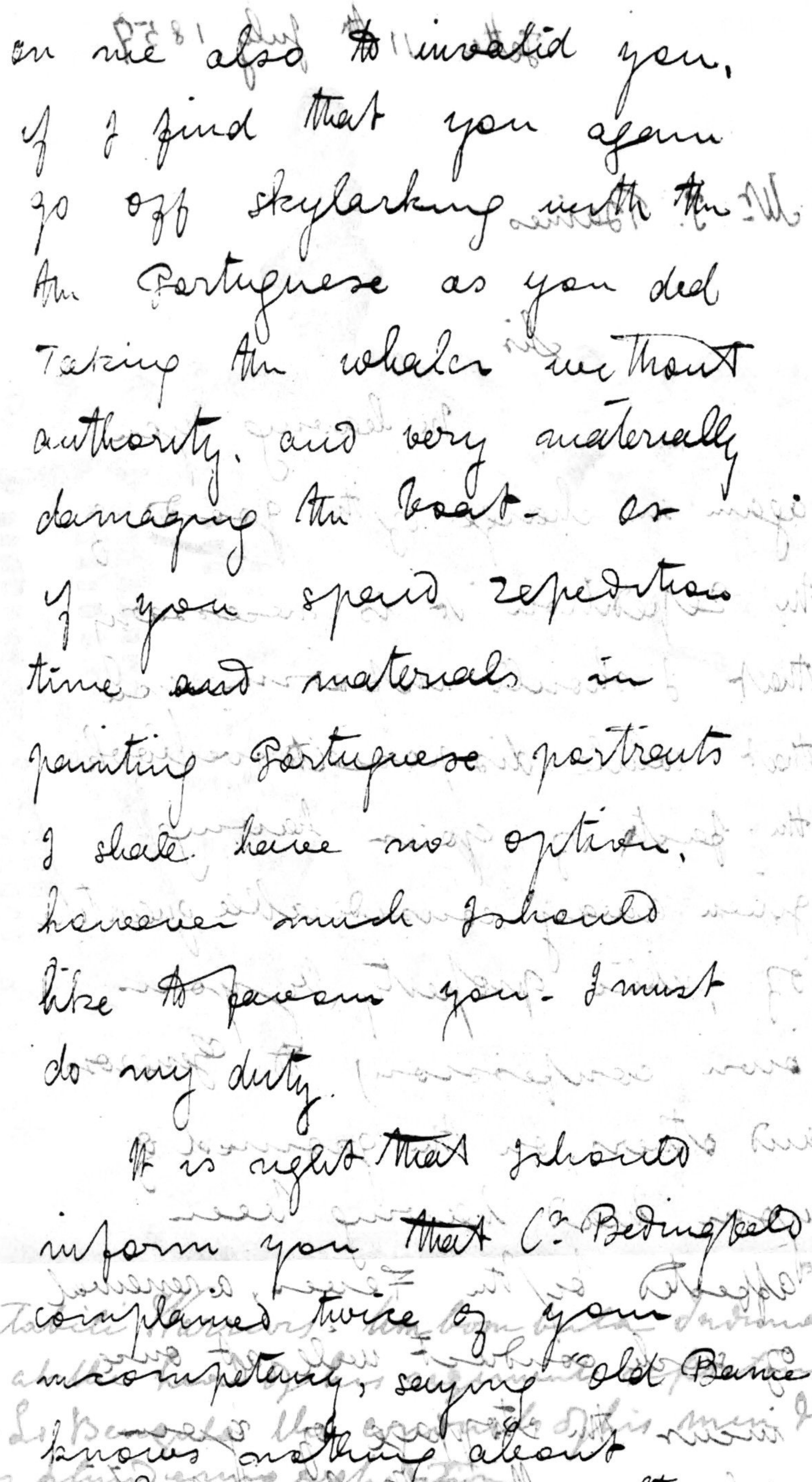
43. Matabili Warriors. Umbombula Induna of Inyati at the head of his regiment reporting to the King Lo Bengula the conduct of his men during a recent plundering expedition

Tette 11th July 1859

Mr T. Baines

Sir

In leaving you again in charge of the goods of the Expedition it is necessary that I should not permit you to omit that while disposed to overlook the fact of your having given away considerable quantities of public property (by your own confession) to the Generosos and others, on the ground of your head having been affected by the Fever, a renewal of such conduct will at once incur the stoppage of your salary. It will be imperative



on me also to invalid you, if I find that you again go off skylarking with the the Portuguese as you did taking the whaler without authority, and very materially damaging the boat - or if you spend expedition time and materials in painting Portuguese portraits I shall have no option, however much I should like to favour you - I must do my duty.

It is right that I should inform you that Cr. Bedingfeld complained twice of your incompetency, saying "old Baines knows nothing about storekeeping" & I never altered

my conduct in the least to you
in consequence, but now
having seen the stores left
to any one who chose to
steal them - and Mr Thornton
even allowed to take what
he liked in your presence
I hereby caution you
~~that~~ if what I have taken
the trouble myself to
arrange so ~~that~~ you
can easily examine them
every day - and St Secard
has engaged to take charge
when you are ill, be not
properly attended to, I must
perform the painful duty
of separating you from the
expedition -

You are required to furnish
me on my return with a
series of portraits of natives

for the purposes of Ethnology — giving them if necessary in groups so as to shew the shapes of the heads and bodies as accurately as you can. You have not yet got their colour [illegible] I have seen is the [illegible] countenance depicted except by exaggeration of certain features — by care I have no doubt you will be able to make drawings which would do credit to the expedition. Birds and animals ~~as~~ alive are also required

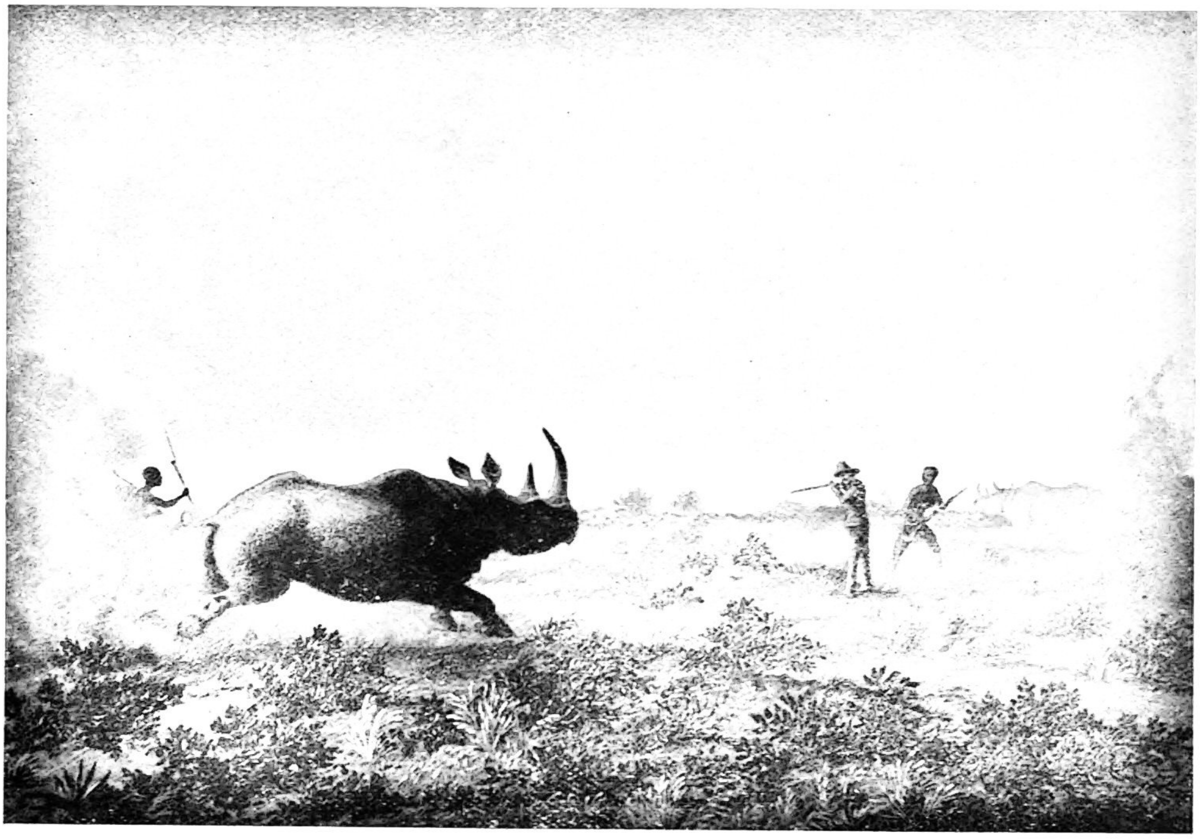
I gave you orders verbally [illegible] having the last time not to do more at boat building than merely shew the carpenters how to do it as a little exercise for yourself. I now repeat that nothing is to be done in boat building at all.

Mr Thornton's rations for four months you have already taken

I am Sir &c.

David Livingstone

No rations are to be given to more than two Makololo except in case of removals of the goods [illegible] brilliant army of artists, authors, and deep thinkers who died not unknown but mis-known. He was not only a lover of scientific works, an explorer and artist, but a geographer, geologist, botanist, entomologist and natural historian. He could take an accurate observation from lunars or occultation. It may be urged that there is some want of finish to many of his works. In some cases there is too much high colouring, but it must be remembered that Baines was a self-taught artist, and that many of his numerous paintings were hastily done to supply his daily wants. It also must not be forgotten that he painted in a brilliant climate where all the varying tints of nature shone out in very strong lights.



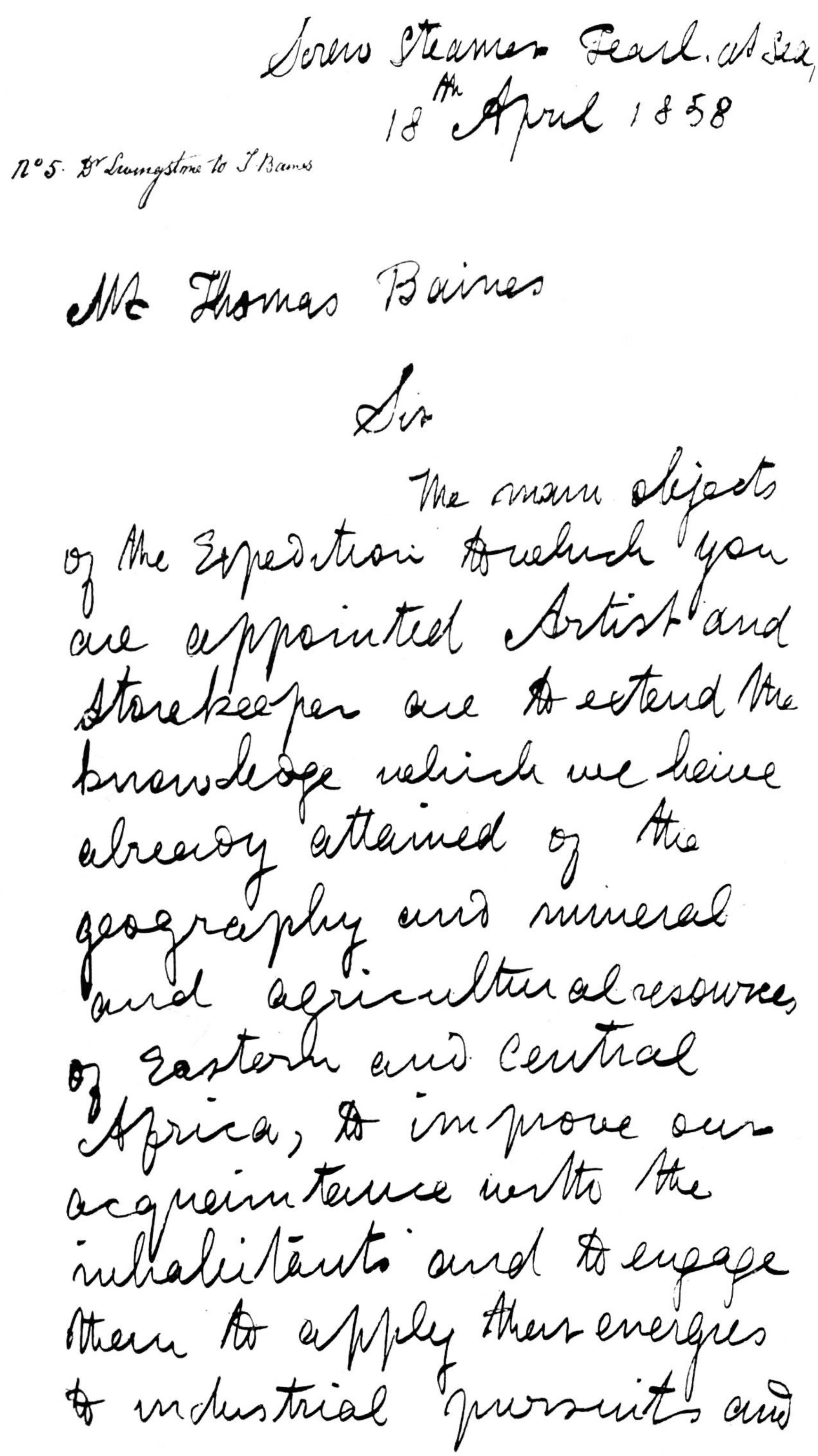
On one of the vast plains near Olifant's River, North-east of Lydenburg.

In vol. ii. of Ritchie's *Life and Discoveries of David Livingstone* we read :

> In an evil hour for himself he (Mr. Baines) unfortunately joined the Livingstone expedition, in a situation for which he had no qualifications whatever. As a storekeeper he was the wrong man in the right place. As an artist and explorer, or astronomer, his services were invaluable.

> Sir Roderick Murchison, in an address delivered before the Royal Geographical Society, declared that with an artist like Mr. Baines, who has sent home such admirable coloured drawings of South African scenes, particularly of the falls of Zambesi, those of us who are destined never to penetrate into the southern part of Africa may quite realise to our mind's eye the fine characters of that grand continent. These pictures, purchased by Robert White, Esq., of London, have been seen and admired by thousands in the picture gallery of the Crystal Palace, and subsequently at the Dublin Exhibition, and at the Alexandra Palace. Mr. Kirk highly applauded them, and Sir George Grey, in a note to the mother of the artist, stated that "Her Majesty expressed much pleasure in inspecting them, and allowed the work to be dedicated to the Prince Consort." Nor was this all, Mr. Glover, the librarian, declared that he never saw the Prince more interested in anything of the kind than the paintings. They kept them at Windsor a week ; and Her Majesty took her children into the room in which they were placed, and explained them to her children. Unintentionally, perhaps, Dr. Livingstone was a little harsh with Mr. Baines ; it is therefore with the greatest pleasure that with the kind permission of Robert White, Esq., a gentleman well known and highly esteemed in African circles, to whom the writer is much indebted for aid in the progress of this work, that we reprint the following memoir of the late Thomas Baines, Esq., F.R.G.S.

Thomas Baines was a native of Norfolk, the nursery of the Anglo-Saxon race, whose energy he so truly inherited. He was born at King's Lynn in 1822. His father, also a man of considerable energy, was the master of a small vessel belonging to that port. No doubt this marine life as well as the striking scenery of the Norfolk coast, gave a tinge to the early artistic tendencies of his second son Thomas, who received the rudiments of at least an excellent English education. Although the art school he had to study in was of a humble nature—the heraldic department of a coach builder, we must not forget Hogarth's early experience as a



Screw Steamer Pearl, at Sea,
18th April 1858

No 5. Dr Livingstone to T. Baines

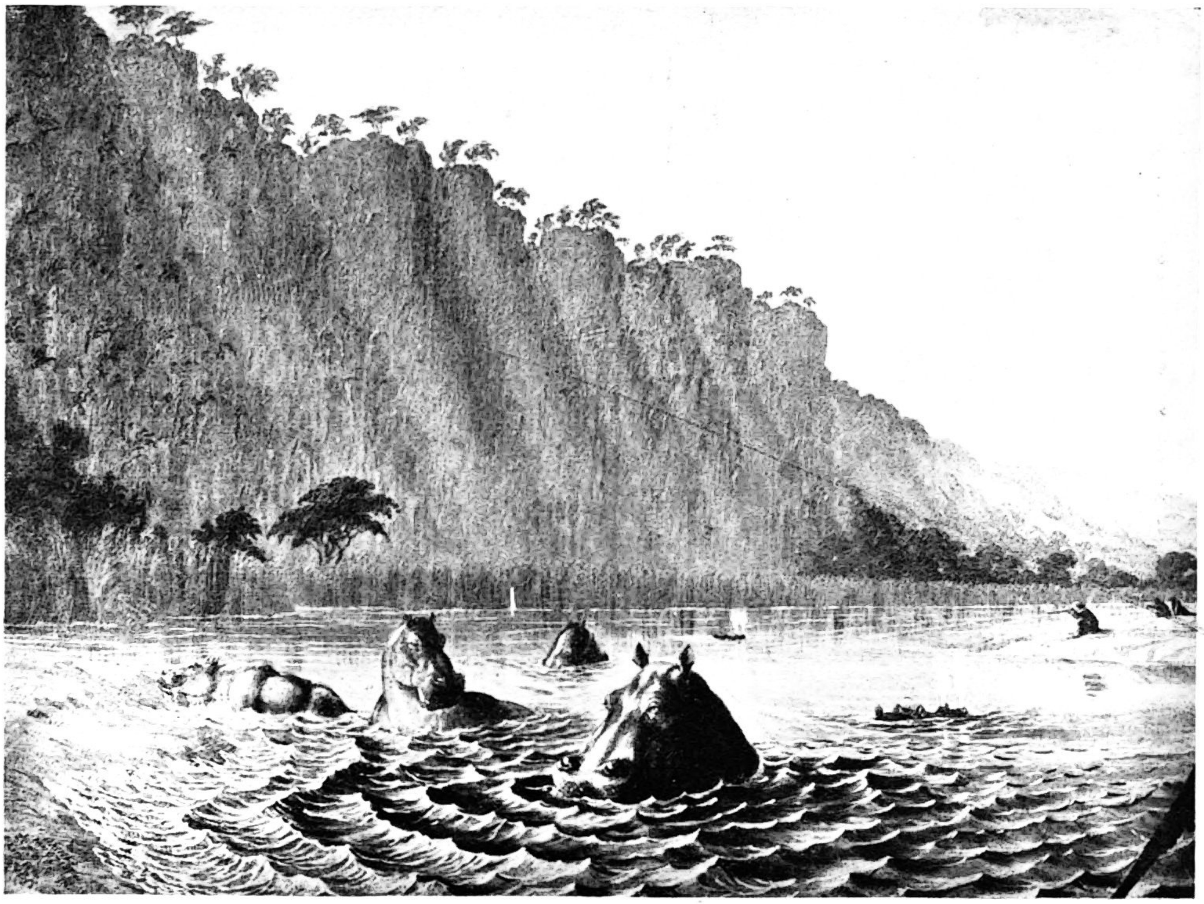
Mr Thomas Baines

Sir

The main objects of the Expedition to which you are appointed Artist and Storekeeper are to extend the knowledge which we have already attained of the geography and mineral and agricultural resources of Eastern and Central Africa, to improve our acquaintance with the inhabitants and to engage them to apply their energies to industrial pursuits and

Dr. Livingstone's instructions to Thomas Baines on his appointment as artist and storekeeper to the expedition."

plate engraver of crests, or Stanfield and Roberts in the painter's loft in Drury Lane and Covent Garden theatres as scene painters. His first sketches were apparently marine subjects, a type which he afterwards abandoned when his mind got thoroughly saturated with the love of travel and the magical romance of African landscape and animal life. He arrived in Cape Colony in 1842. After ekeing out a precarious livelihood by painting for a few patrons African landscapes, and groups of game and native figures, and by teaching drawing he was taken with a desire to explore, and proceeding to the frontier during the Kaffir wars of 1846-7, he made ample opportunities of employing his pencil. During the progress of the Kaffir wars of 1848 and 1851 Baines, we read, "was always to the front." He was in the field with the brave Colonel Tylden, in the country, now the division of Queen's Town, but then Tambookieland, where he got materials for some of his best pictures. On the 6th November, 1851, he was present at the action with the rebel Hottentots in Water Kloof, where the lamented Colonel Fordyce, 74th Regiment, was killed, and on every occasion in front of the enemy, he was busy with his sketch-book, exposing himself, under heavy fire, with the coolest courage, to very great personal risk.

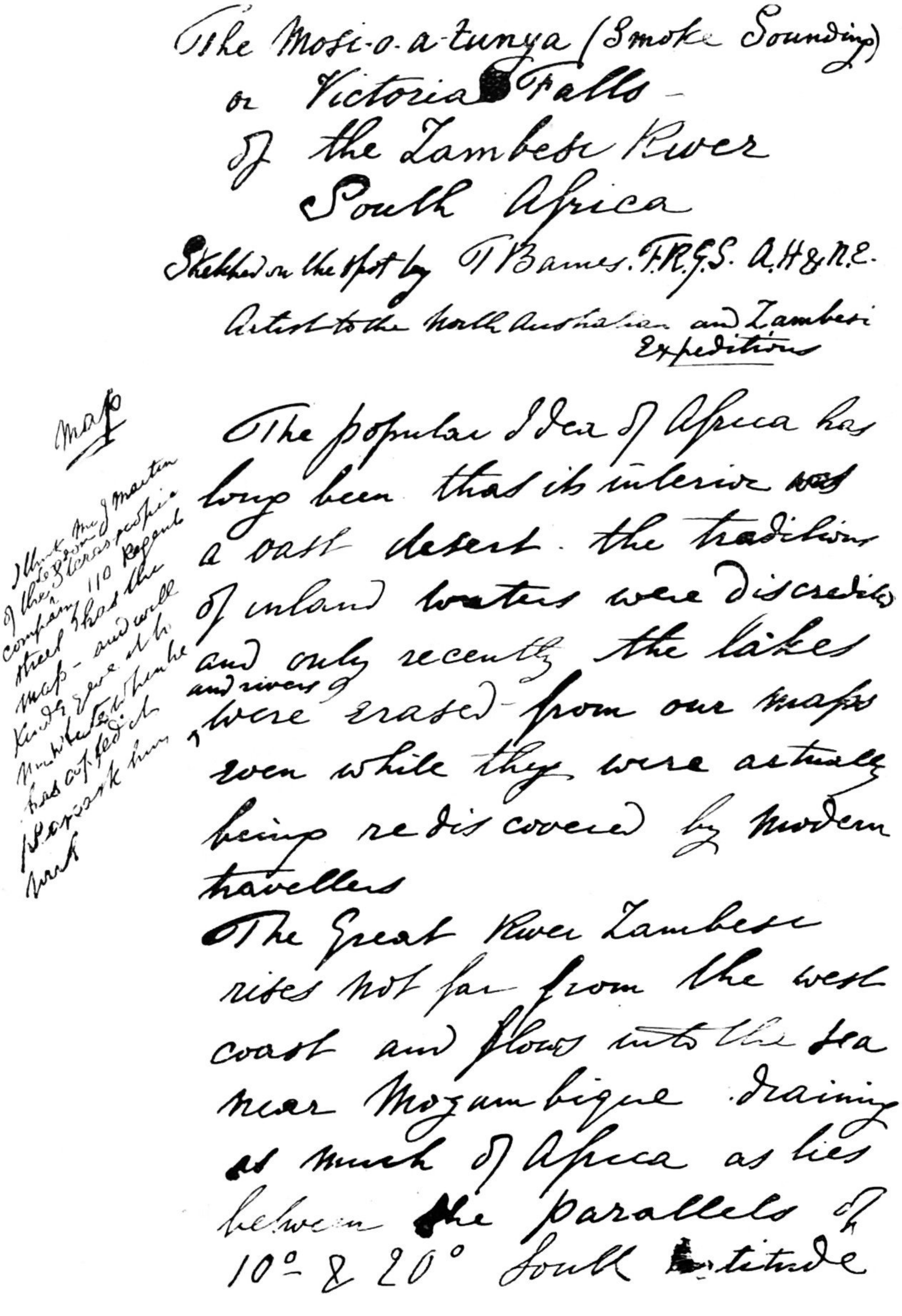


———ambiguous between sea and land,
The river-horse. *Milton.*

At the conclusion of the war of 1854, Baines returned to England, and got attached to the exploring expedition to Northern Australia under Gregory as artist, and as usual took his full share of the dangers and fatigues. He received the special thanks of the colonial government for his services.

On his return to his native town, King's Lynn, in 1856-7, he was presented with the freedom of the borough, with an address under the Corporate seal. The name of Baines was now becoming well-known to the scientific societies both of England and Europe—not only as an artist, but as an accurate and scientific geographer; and this led to his appointment, at the recommendation of the Royal Geograhpical Society, as artist to the Livingstone Zambesi Expedition, in 1858. He, however, unfortunately for himself, also accepted the somewhat inferior office of storekeeper, which led to some very unpleasant differences with Charles Livingstone, the doctor's brother, and eventually with the doctor himself, as will be seen from the facsimiles of Livingstone's letters, here produced by permission of Miss Morison-White, of Brighton, who has kindly lent the original letters in her possession for the purpose of this article.

The memoir includes a narrative of the facts of the origin of the dispute between Baines and Livingstone, and the public are at once able to see how harshly poor Baines was treated. Prostrated by fever at Tete, after almost superhuman exertions, to bring the little steamer through the fever-stricken marshes of the Zambesi delta, he was there received into the commandant's house and treated by the Portuguese authorities with the greatest kindness, until he recovered. Grateful for this treatment, Baines conceived, as an artist, the best way of expressing his thanks was to offer to paint the portrait of his kind host and nurse. The offer was gladly accepted, and executed. This graceful recognition of his obligation was converted by Mr. Charles Livingstone into a charge against him, made to the doctor, as leader of the Expedition, of embezzling, in the shape of colours and canvas of the portrait, the stores entrusted to his charge; and, we regret to say, the doctor never hesitated for a moment in accepting this



The Mosi-o-a-tunya (Smoke Sounding)
or Victoria Falls -
of the Zambesi River
South Africa
Sketched on the spot by T Baines. F.R.G.S. A.H.&N.E.
Artist to the North Australian and Zambesi Expeditions

map

I think Mr J Marten
of the London Stereoscopic
company 110 Regent
street has the
map - and will
kindly give it to
Mr Whitefield when he
has copied it
[illegible]
work

The popular Idea of Africa has long been that its interior ~~was~~ a vast desert. the traditions of inland waters were discredited and only recently the lakes and rivers of were erased from our maps even while they were actually being re discovered by modern travellers

The Great River Zambesi rises not far from the west coast and flows into the sea near Mozambique draining as much of Africa as lies between the parallels of 10° & 20° South latitude

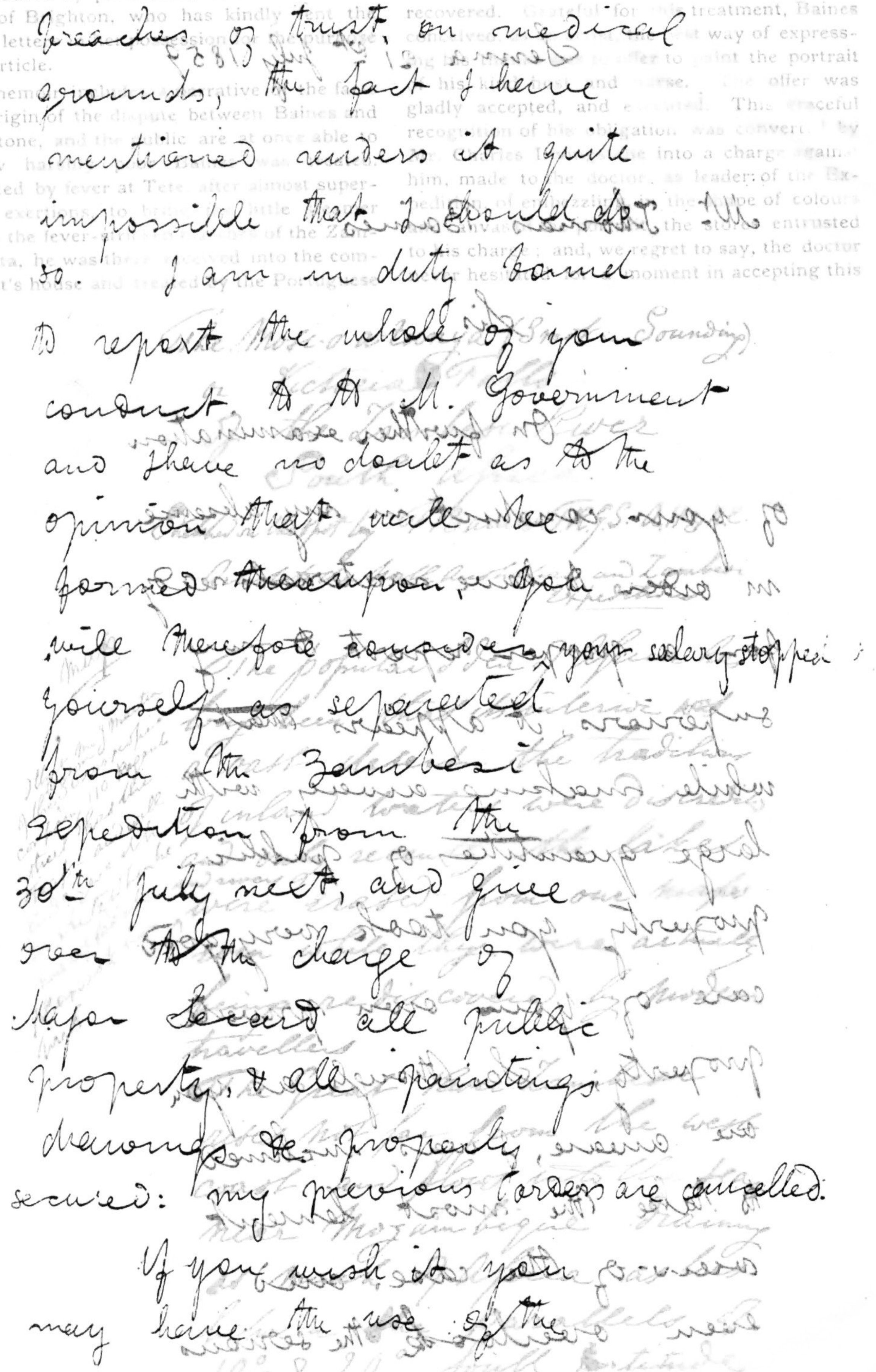
Senna 21st July 1859

Mr Thomas Baines

Sir

On further examination of your conduct in my absence in order to have materials ready for a proper report to my superiors, it appears ~~that~~ while making away with large quantities of public property you took very good care of your own private property; So, though as you are aware, I was inclined to take the most lenient view of the case, and even overlook the serious here produced by permission of Miss Morison-White, of Brighton, who has kindly lent the original letter in her possession for the purpose of this article.

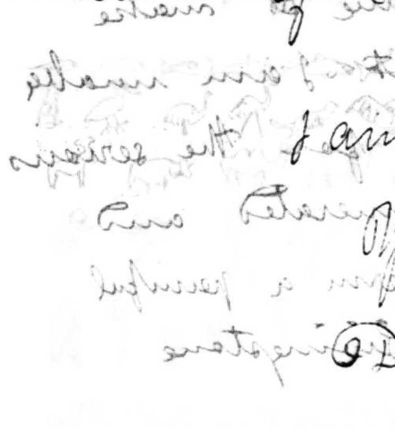
The memorandum is illustrative of the facts of the origin of the dispute between Baines and Livingstone, and the public are at once able to see how harshly the former was treated. Prostrated by fever at Tete, after almost superhuman exertions to bring the little steamer through the fever-stricken waters of the Zambesi delta, he was there received into the commandant's house and treated by the Portuguese authorities with the greatest kindness, until he recovered. Grateful for this treatment, Baines conceived that the best way of expressing his thanks was to offer to paint the portrait of his kind host and nurse. The offer was gladly accepted, and executed. This graceful recognition of his obligation was converted by Mr. Charles Livingstone into a charge against him, made to the doctor, as leader of the Expedition, of embezzling, in the shape of colours and canvas, a portion of the stores entrusted to his charge; and, we regret to say, the doctor never hesitated for a moment in accepting this



breaches of trust, on medical grounds, the fact I hence mentioned renders it quite impossible that I should do so. I am in duty bound to report the whole of your conduct to H. M. Government and I have no doubt as to the opinion that will be formed thereupon, & you will therefore consider your salary stopped & yourself as separated from the Zambesi Expedition from the 30th July next, and give over to the charge of Major Secard all public property, & all paintings drawings &c. properly secured: my previous orders are cancelled.

If you wish it your canvass may have the use of the accusation and refusing to hear any explanation on the part of Baines. It eventually led to the dismissal of Baines, [illegible] branded as he was with the name of a common thief, and [illegible] credit of Dr. Livingstone [illegible] was honestly acknowledge his error. Into his conduct on this occasion Baines always challenged the strictest inquiry from his accuser, and was refused it. He appealed to the Secretary of State, and to the Council of the Royal Geographical Society, but without effect. What could the friendless unknown artist do with the influence of a man like Dr. Livingstone against him? He could only wait for time, and he left the court of public opinion without a stain upon his character. We know [illegible] motive which actuated him in joining Chapman's Expedition to the Zambesi in 1861 was the hope of meeting Livingstone personally confronting him on the Zambesi, or at Tete; but the meeting never occurred. This expedition went from the West Coast overland to Victoria Falls, [illegible] Chapman [illegible] way. Baines [illegible] ed [illegible] secured [illegible] animals, besides, superintending the construction of boats, etc. His series of pictures of the Victoria Falls, and other scenes on the Zambesi, are well known, and were the property of Mr. Robert White, on whose decease they came into the possession of his daughter, Miss Morison-White, who on all occasions is most willing to show and explain them to visitors interested in South Africa. On his return from this Expedition, Baines again visited England, and for some time he had his studio in a spare room at the Royal Geographical Society's rooms, in Whitehall Place. In 1865 he published his drawings of African scenery, and his explorations in South-eastern Africa, which acquired quite a European celebrity. Attention having been called to the existence of gold fields in the Tati and the [illegible] North-east of the Trans-Vaal, Baines [illegible] entered into [illegible] formed for the purpose [illegible] them, and obtained the [illegible] the successor of the once [illegible] who granted him, on account of the company he represented, many valuable concessions north of the Tati, which, unfortunately, were not always properly utilized through the mismanagement of the directors at home failing to provide [illegible] capital and [illegible]. Like too many other pioneers, poor Baines never reaped [illegible]. In a short poem in Miss [illegible] possession the artist has written a skit in which he terms "Miss Limited Companie." Throughout all his difficulties, and they were many, Baines never shrank from a fixed determination to open to civilization the great country of the Northern gold fields of Southern Africa. He knew that [illegible] treasures existed; he knew also they required a golden key to [illegible] them. [illegible] crippled his energies and weakened all his efforts, causing [illegible] disappointments that eventually [illegible] seriously impaired [illegible] seemed that all his hopes were about to be realized by the establishment [illegible] at Port Elizabeth [illegible] were [illegible] difficulties in the [illegible] but Baines [illegible] undaunted, [illegible] made arrangements to proceed to the fields [illegible]. After [illegible] proceeded [illegible] he purchased [illegible] Cape [illegible] and every [illegible] preparation was [illegible] made for a long [illegible] journey, but unhappy Baines was unconsciously preparing for a much longer journey into "a land from whose bourne no traveller returns." The anxieties of mind he had lately gone through, as well as the injury sustained by the many years of hardship experienced in his travels, had finally affected his digestive organs, and at last, after a short illness he succumbed to a long and eventually fatal attack of dysentery, on the 8th of April [illegible] at the comparatively early age of [illegible] years. The same disease had killed Andersson, Chapman and Livingstone, caused doubtless by the necessity for so [illegible] and indigestible [illegible] elephant, rhinoceros, lion, [illegible]

[illegible] pleasing to note, that he died [illegible] on the road, in [illegible] among those whom he so truthfully [illegible] his brush. Whether he will [illegible] well known is a difficult thing to say, [illegible] we know, that he lies peacefully sleeping in the wilderness among people whom he loved so well.



[illegible] "The Gold Regions of South-East Africa," by Thomas Baines, F.R.G.S. Stanford, London.

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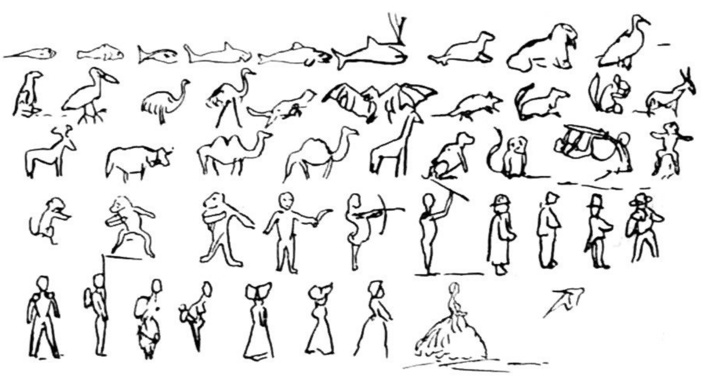
artists materials, and your
usual rations after the four
months rations now in
your possession are expended
but I shall take ~~the~~ earliest
opportunity my other duties
allow of sending you home.

I am, Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
David Livingstone
Consul
Commanding Zambesi Expedition

P. S. The failures of duty which I am obliged to report against you are neglect of duty as storekeeper of the Expedition in not only leaving stores exposed to be stolen but by your own confession giving away large quantities of them to Generoso & others— a fact which lays you open to prosecution — leaving your duties entirely and without leave in order to skylark with certain Portuguese, in doing which you took a whaler without authority and very seriously damaged it. wasting artists materials in painting portraits of Pascoal & Albino without authority &c &c from the officer left in charge. It is with deep regret that I have to make such a report, but I am unable to find an excuse for the serious failures of duty enumerated and must therefore perform a painful duty.

D. Livingstone

accusation and refusing to hear any explanation on the part of Baines. It eventually led to the dismissal of Baines, as he could not remain, branded as he was, with the name of a common thief, and it certainly does not redound to the credit of Dr. Livingstone, that to the last he did not honestly acknowledge his error. Into his conduct on this occasion Baines always challenged the strictest inquiry from his accusers, and was refused it. He appealed to the Secretary of State, and to the Council of the Geographical Society, but without effect. What could the friendless unknown artist do with the influence of a man like Dr. Livingtone against him? He could only wait for Time, and he left the court of public opinion without a stain upon his character. We know, in fact, that the great motive which actuated him in joining Chapman's Expedition to the Zambesi in 1861 was the hope of meeting Livingstone, and personally confronting him on the Zambesi, or at Tete; but the meeting never occurred. This expedition went from the West Coast overland to Victoria Falls, meeting Chapman on the way. Baines painted, shot and preserved the skins of animals, besides superintending the construction of boats, etc. His series of pictures of the Victoria Falls, and other scenes on the Zambesi, are well known, and were the property of Mr. Robert White, on whose decease they came into the possession of his daughter, Miss Morison-White, who on all occasions is most willing to show and explain them to visitors interested in South Africa. On his return from this Expedition, Baines again visited England, and for some time he had his studio in a spare room at the Royal Geographical Society's Rooms, in Whitehall Place. In 1865 he published his drawings of African scenery, and his explorations in South-eastern Africa, which acquired quite a European celebrity. Attention having been called to the existence of gold-fields in the Tati and the ruined cities in the region North-east of the Trans-Vaal Republic, he entered into arrangements with a company formed for the purpose in London for exploring them, and obtained the friendship of Lo Bengula, the successor of the once dreaded Um Zelikatze, who granted him, on account of the company he represented, many valuable concessions north of the Tati, which, unfortunately, were not always properly utilized through the mismanagement of the directors at home failing to provide the proper capital and machinery, etc. Like too many other pioneers, poor Baines never reaped the harvest he had sown. In a short poem in Miss Morison-White's possession the artist has written a skit on whom he terms "Miss Limited Companie." Throughout all his difficulties, and they were many, Baines never shrank from a fixed determination to open to civilization the great country of the Northern gold-fields of Southern Africa. He knew that locked-up treasures existed; he knew also they required a golden key to open them, and want of funds crippled his energies, and weakened all his efforts, causing delays and disappointments that eventually broke down his health, already seriously impaired. At last it seemed that all his hopes were about to be realized by the establishment of a company at Port Elizabeth. There were difficulties in the way, but Baines was still undaunted, and he made arrangements to proceed to the fields almost alone. After having proceeded to Durban he purchased a Cape Wagon, and every preparation was made for a long journey, but unhappy Baines was unconsciously preparing for a much longer journey into "a land from whose bourn no traveller returns." The anxieties of mind he had lately gone through, as well as the injury sustained by the many years of hardship experienced in his travels, had fatally affected his digestive organs, and at last, after a short illness, he succumbed to a long and eventually fatal attack of dysentery, on the 8th of April, 1875, at the comparatively early age of 53 years. The same disease had killed Anderson, Chapman, and Livingstone, caused, doubtless, by the necessity for so many years of feeding on the tough and indigestible flesh of the elephant, rhinoceros, lion, and other large game.



A lightning sketch by Baines illustrating the Development Theory. Note the evolution from the tadpole to the angel's wing.

It is, however, pleasing to note, that he died as he had lived, a traveller on the road, in the land of and among those whom he so truthfully depicted by his brush. Whether he will ever be well known is a difficult thing to say, but this we know, that he lies peacefully sleeping in the wilderness among people whom he loved so well.

"The Gold Region of South-East Africa," by Thomas Baines, F.R.G.S. Stanford, London.